

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /090 W
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P R 201521Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9503

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PINS ET FT

SUBJ: STIRN'S STATEMENT IN DJIBOUTI

REF: ADDIS ABABA 5980

1. EMBASSY HAS JUST SEEN AFP REPORT (WHICH ALL ADDRESSEES MAY NOT HAVE) OF THE STATEMENT MADE MAY 19 BY OLIVIER STIRN, FRENCH SECRETARY OF STATE FOR OVERSEAS DEPARTMENTS AND TERRITORIES UPON THE COMPLETION OF HIS TWO-DAY DJIBOUTI VISIT (REFTEL).

2. STIRN ANNOUNCED THAT THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR PUBLIC SECURITY, LOCAL INTELLIGENCE, ETC., WHICH HAD BEEN DELEGATED TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES (READ ALI AREF'S TERRITORIAL GOVT), HAD BEEN RETURNED TO THE FRENCH AUTHORITIES. STIRN JUDGED THAT INTERNAL ORDER IN THE TERRITORY WAS BETTER THAN IT WAS THREE MONTHS AGO. "ALL IS CALM IN DJIBOUTI", STIRN STATED. "EVERYTHING WILL BE DONE TO ENSURE THAT THE SITUATION REMAINS

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CALM."

3. STIRN SAID THAT REPS FROM ALL POLITICAL OPINIONS HAVE AGREED TO COME AND DISCUSS THE FUTURE AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE TERRITORY WITH FRENCH OFFICIALS BEGINNING MAY 25.

4. STIRN EMPHASIZED THAT THE GOVT OF FRANCE WAS NOT TRYING TO CONTROL TERRITORIAL POLITICS AND FAVORED NO ONE IN THIS POLITICAL PROCESS. "WE FAVOR UNION (READ COALITION)", HE SAID, "FRANCE WILL NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN THE PROBLEM OF INDIVIDUALS." FRANCE, HE CONTINUED, IS AGREEABLE TO ALL FORMS OF COOPERATION INCLUDING MILITARY WITH THE FUTURE INDEPENDENT DJIBOUTI NATION, IF THE LATTER REQUIRE IT.

5. COMMENT: STIRN'S STATEMENT REMOVING POLICE POWERS FROM TFAI GOVT COUNCIL PRESIDENT ALI AREF, BACKING A GOVT OF NATIONAL UNION ENCOMPASSING ALL TERRITORIAL POLITICAL OPINIONS, AND SUPPORTING HIGH COMMISSIONER D'ORNANO, APPEARS TO PLACE GREATER DISTANCE BETWEEN THE GOVT OF FRANCE AND WEAKENED TERRITORIAL LEADER ALI AREF. IT ALSO SUGGESTS THAT FRENCH HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN OVERCOMING LPAI OBJECTIONS TO ROUND TABLE MEETINGS IN PARIS AND THAT LATTER WILL PARTICIPATE IN SOME FASHION. WE ALSO NOTE THAT NOTWITHSTANDING CURRENT ETHIOPIAN LINE OPPOSING FRENCH "BASE" IN DJIBOUTI FOLLOWING INDEPENDENCE, STIRN APPEARS TO BE MAINTAINING FRENCH OFFER TO DJIBOUTI LEADERS TO PROVIDE POST-INDEPENDENCE MILITARY "COOPERATION" IF IT IS WANTED.
HUMMEL

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